

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
(317) 232-9855

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6153**

**BILL NUMBER: SB 19**

**DATE PREPARED:** Feb 24, 2001

**BILL AMENDED:** Feb 19, 2001

**SUBJECT:** First Steps Sliding Fee Scale.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Kathy Norris

**PHONE NUMBER:** 234-1360

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) This bill requires the Division of Family and Children to adopt rules to implement a sliding fee scale for early intervention services provided under the Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities Program (commonly referred to as the First Steps Program). The bill specifies that the sliding fee scale: (1) may not impose charges for services to an eligible individual whose family's income is less than 250% of the federal income poverty level; and (2) must allow for the payment of required fees per treatment, monthly, or annually.

**Effective Date:** (Amended) July 1, 2002.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (Revised) The Division will require some administrative resources to design and implement the required sliding fee scale. The Family and Social Services Administration has estimated that the start-up and operating costs to be approximately \$170,000 in FY 2002; annual operating costs are estimated to be \$134,000 for FY 2003. The cost of rules promulgation should be able to be absorbed within the Division's current level of appropriations.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** (Revised) This bill specifies that the sliding fee scale adopted may not impose fees or charges to eligible individuals whose family income is less than 250% of the Federal Income Poverty Level. This standard equates to gross income of \$29,025 for a family of two and \$44,125 for a family of four. Additional individuals are factored in at \$7,550 each. The Family and Social Services Administration reports that there are 9,756 total families participating in the First Steps Program. Of the total participating, 3,289 (or 33.7%) have income at or above 250% of the Federal Income poverty Level. The specific details of the sliding fee scale are to be designed by the Division. However, if the Division implements a sliding fee scale that requires these families to contribute an average of \$20 each month, (an annual total of \$240 per family) the annual revenue would be approximately \$790,000.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Family and Children.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** Susan Preble, Legislative Liaison for FSSA, (317)-232-1149.